

AQUINAS ACADEMY 2018-2019 Middle School -- Summer Reading

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 are required to read **two** books this summer for **English class**. This is in addition to the Science reading or project work for your grade.

For each book, students should take detailed and thoughtful notes while reading. These notes should be about important plot events, characters, settings, themes, and any other significant information.

Questions to guide your notes include the following:

- Where and when does this book take place? How is the setting important to this story?
- Who is the protagonist--the main character--in the book? Who are the other characters?
- What kind of person is the main character? Why do you think he/she behaves this way?
- What challenge or conflict does the main character encounter?
- How is the conflict resolved?
- In what specific ways does the main character change throughout this story?
- What is the lesson that you learned from this book? How can you apply it to your life?
- What one thing would you change about this book and why? How would you change it?
- On a scale of 1-10 (low to high), how would you rate this novel? Why?

Written notes for both books are due on the first day of class.

Students will turn in notes AND use them for two **in-class assignments** based on the books.

Choices --

Be sure to read the full-length novel, not the abridged or young readers' edition.

Grade 6

Island of the Blue Dolphins -- Scott O'Dell
Number the Stars--Lois Lowry
The Cay--Theodore Taylor
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer--Mark Twain
Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm--Kate Douglas Wiggin
The Bronze Bow--Elizabeth George Speare

Grade 7

Murder on the Orient Express -- Agatha Christie
The Hound of the Baskervilles--Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Anne of Green Gables--L. M. Montgomery
Hatchet--Gary Paulsen
The Witch of Blackbird Pond--Elizabeth George Speare
Around the World in Eighty Days – Jules Verne
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea--Jules Verne

Grade 8

Little Women -- Louisa May Alcott
Call of the Wild--Jack London
Robinson Crusoe--Daniel Defoe
The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde--Robert Louis Stevenson
The Time Machine--H. G. Wells
Fellowship of the Ring--J. R. R. Tolkien*
The Two Towers--J. R. R. Tolkien*
Return of the King--J. R. R. Tolkien*

*NOTE: Students may read only ONE book from the Tolkien trilogy as part of the assignment, but they are certainly welcome to read all three for personal enrichment/enjoyment.